

IN THE LOOP, Volume 1, Issue 2

Legislative Email Update

After our first official biweekly "In the Loop" email was sent out two weeks ago, we received an overwhelming response. Many sent thank you notes, and many others sent requests to be added to the list. Thank you to all of you for your interest and support. I am pleased that I can provide you with these important updates from our Capitol.

RESOLUTIONS SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH, MICHIGAN MILITARY TROOPS

With yellow ribbons adorning lapels of Senators and their staff, the Senate this week passed two Resolutions expressing support for President George W. Bush and Michigan troops and their families. Senate Resolution 37 offers support for President Bush's strategy for protecting the security of the United States through efforts in Iraq and to express support for Michigan troops. SR 37 will be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation. Senate Resolution 38 expresses support for Michigan troops and their families, and was unanimously approved. SR 38 will be transmitted to the Michigan Department of Military Affairs.

SENATE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE OPERATION ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Created to provide families of deployed military personnel information on financial, emotional and spiritual support available in Michigan communities, Operation Adopt-A-Family was introduced during a formal press conference this week by members of the Senate Republican Caucus. The operation will provide help for families in three ways: local organizations will be enlisted to help families alleviate hardships directly resulting from the deployment of their spouses or parents; partnerships will be formed between local organizations and public service groups to maintain an "adoptive" relationship with the families of Michigan's deployed military personnel; and support will be generated from the public and the Legislature to provide funding for the Family Support Network. Families that need assistance and organizations who want to participate are encouraged to contact Senator Patterson's office for information. The following is a list of participating organizations and their contact information:

Organizations	Phone Number	Internet Address
Michigan Bankers Association	(517) 485-3600	
Michigan Sheriffs Association	(800) 875-5500	www.michigansheriff.com
American Legion	(800) 504-4098	
Veterans of Foreign Wars		www.bu.mvcc.com/vfwmi
Catholic Social Services		www.css-svh.org
Salvation Army	(517) 484-4424	
Michigan Family Forum		www.fatherhood.org
Michigan Works!	(800) 285-WORKS	www.michiganworks.org
Holy Spirit Catholic Church	(810) 231-9199	
Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church	(810) 227-9411	
Michigan National Guard Family Support	(517) 702-5116	
Michigan Association of School Boards		www.masb.org

LAND USE PACKAGE INTRODUCED

Senate Republicans this week introduced a land use package that helps protect farmland from development, offers property and income tax incentives for donations of land and calls on Congress to pass legislation to protect open land and wildlife habitat. Also included in the package is legislation to help farmers with financial burdens by refraining from valuing their land at highest or best use and a bill to sunset the Land Division Act. The legislative package consists of six bills and two resolutions. Senate Bills 301-306, Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 and Senate Resolution 39 await committee consideration.

SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS CONDUCTS FIRST MEETING

The Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus conducted its first meeting recently to discuss ways to protect Michigan's outdoor heritage. A bipartisan organization to protect the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers, the sportsmen's caucus has 87 members in the Michigan Senate and House, which makes it one of the largest bipartisan caucuses in the Legislature. Among the goals of the sportsmen's caucus are: to preserve and promote the traditional privileges enjoyed by Michigan citizens to hunt, fish and trap; to ensure that Michigan citizens have access to state managed public lands to enjoy hunting, fishing and trapping; and to support and enhance fish and wildlife habitat management and conservation. The caucus meetings will take place on a monthly basis and features speakers from various conservation and outdoor recreation organizations. More information on the sportsmen's caucus may be obtained by contacting (517) 373-0853.

JOIN IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Senator Bruce Patterson will be a member of the host committee for "Cherish the Children", the Ultimate Fantasy Auction, hosted by Michigan's Children's Trust Fund (CTF). In an effort to make the event a success, Senator Patterson is requesting business members of the 7th Senate District donate unique items for the auction. Please contact Kristin Rieber in Senator Patterson's office toll free at (866) 262-7307 by March 31, 2003 with donations. All donations are tax deductible.

CTF is the only statewide, non-profit organization in Michigan dedicated solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Since 1982, CTF has raised more than \$60 million and provided support to more than six million children and families throughout the state.

MARCH 2003 NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

On March 11, 2003, the Michigan Senate unanimously adopted Senator Bruce Patterson's resolution to commemorate March 2003 as National Nutrition Month. The American Dietetic Association (ADA) will join the Michigan Senate in recognizing March 2003 as National Nutrition Month.

ONE-ON-ONE WITH SENATOR PATTERSON

On March 31, 2003 Senator Bruce Patterson (R – Canton; 7th District) will hold office hours from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Rockwood City Hall Community Room, 32001 Fort Rd, Rockwood, Mich.

SENATE OFFICE & CONTACT INFORMATION

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or one of my staff members.

Thank you for your continued interest in the legislative activities of the Michigan Senate.

Very truly yours,

Bruce Patterson
State Senator - 7th District